SASKATCHEWAN GRAIN GROWERS ASSOCIATION LIMITED.

Manifesto On

Provincial Political Action

Prepared on Behalf of the Central Board

By J. A. Maharg, President.

Regina, February 28th, 1922.

At the annual convention held in Regina, February 14-17, 1922, the matter of what action your Association should take in provincial politics was thoroughly discussed, after which the following resolution was passed by an almost unanimous vote:

"WHEREAS we hold it to be the duty of all citizens to interest themselves in all matters of government and to express themselves by the exercise of their franchise in elections, and

WHEREAS for effectual expression they must group themselves according to the principles and purposes they hold in common, and

WHEREAS while facilities have been provided for expression of our common political principles federally, no such provision has been made provincially:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this convention favors taking the necessary steps to provide for the organization of the supporters of these common principles and objects for provincial election purposes."

Following this, the question as to what form our political action should take was debated at great length and the following was passed:

"RESOLVED that the Central Board create a committee to assist those provincial constituencies that wish to take action in support of the declared political principles of the Association to organize themselves for such action."

The Central Board, which is composed of 27 members, met the day following the convention and also on the succeeding Monday and thoroughly discussed the problem in its every phase and particularly the effect its decision might have on the workings of the Association. After the matter had been thoroughly canvassed from every angle it was decided unanimously to take this action entirely within the Association and the Board instructed the President to issue a statement to the Locals to this end.

The resolution quoted, outlines, in a general way, what purpose of this action is, but it was thought wise to outline a little more fully some of the specific objects it is hoped to attain.

First, it seeks to separate election organizations permanently from the influence and domination of members of the legislature and government. This will enable such members to confine their attention entirely to matters of legislation and administration rather than, as in the past, giving much of their time and thought to building up provincial organizations to win elections and will leave the responsibility for elections with the electors where it properly belongs.

Second, it assures the elimination of government employees from election organizations. One of the chief complaints during and after elections would appear to be that government employees, instead of looking after the work they are paid to do, devote their time to securing the return of the government under which they are employed.

The effect of this is that should the government be returned they are more or less under an obligation to these employees and, should it be defeated, then under the present practice most of them would be discharged. Thus it becomes impossible for the employee to give his best to the work in hand. As self preservation is the first law of nature it is only natural that the employees will keep their own future in mind, whereas if placed in a position where doing well the work which they are engaged to do is their only consideration, greater efficiency and continuity of service will undoubtedly be secured.

Third, this system of selection and election should at all times insure that the legislature and the government will be in harmony with the views of the majority of the electors and not seeking to neutralize their federal efforts by lending its weight and influence to a federal party equally out of harmony with popular opinion in the province.

Fourth, it places the full responsibility for choosing, electing and financing the candidates entirely upon the electors in the respective constituencies.

Fifth, it will provide those convenient "facilities for expression of our common political principles and objects" in provincial elections asked for in the resolution of the convention.

This movement will not be confined to agriculturists but will be wide open to all, be they resident in city, town or village, who believe that the principles enunciated by the farmers' organization are in the best interests of our province. Neither is it designed for the defeat or election of any political party but rather to make it possible for the electors to have a much fuller voice than heretofore in the government of our province.

Near the close of the convention the matter of organization was taken up and the following resolution passed:

> "RESOLVED that the boundaries of the present organization districts be modified in such a way as to include in each an integral number of provincial constituencies."

This plan of organization, as later outlined by the Central Board, requires that when the districts have been re-arranged, a meeting of all the locals in each provincial constituency will be held and the

constituency permanently created an organization unit under the district director with an organizer to be known as County Organizer at its head and a committee of municipality organizers under him. Thus it is hoped to perfect the organization of the Association in all parts of the province and also there will thus have been provided the necessary organization for the locals to nominate their own choice of candidates to support the principles and objects of the Association in the next provincial election.